

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AS-01 /012 R

66011

DRAFTED BY NEA:SSOBER:CF

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

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R 150311Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 037585

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 1942 ACTION SECSTATE 13 FEB

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1942

STADIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (STEVENSON, ADLAI)

SUBJECT: CODEL STEVENSON'S VISIT TO CAIRO

REF: STATE 28668

1. SENATOR ADLAI STEVENSON ACCOMPANIED BY STAFF ASSISTANT WILLIAM
BUELL, PAID BRIEF VISIT TO CAIRO FEBRUARY 11-13. DUE TO LATE ARRIVA
L

FEBRUAR 11 AND EARLY DEPARTURE FEBRUARY 13 HE HAD ONLY ONE
WORKING DAY FOR MEETINGS AND BRIEFINGS. BECAUSE PRESIDENT
SADAT WAS ILL AND CONFINED TO HIS BED, SENATOR STEVNESON SAW
VICE PRESIDENT HOSNI MUBARAK. AFTER EMBASSY BRIEFING SENATOR
ALSO ATTENDED LUNCHEON HOSTED BY DEPUATH SPEAKER
GAMAL OTEIFY OF THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY. ALL THREE CAIRO NEWSPAPER
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EDITORS-IN-CHIEF ATTENDED AS WELL AS OTHER PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

MEMBERS. CODEL THEN MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY AND PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY SPEAKER SAYED MAREI. AT SUGGESTION CLOVIS MAKSOUD, PLO MEMBER ACTIVE IN US, SENATOR HIMSELF ARRANGED TO MEET WITH MUHAMMAD HASSAIN KEYKAL PRIVATELY. CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER REPORTED SEPTTEL.

2. MAIN SUBSTANTIVE REASON FOR CODEL STEVENSON'S VISIT WAS TO PROBE EGYPTIAN THINKING RE FURTHER STEPS TOWARD PEACE IN THE AREA AND EXPLAIN BACKGROUND TO HIS NEW BOYCOTT LEGISLATION. DURING MEETINGS HE EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND SAID HE SEES NEED FOR ARMS SALES TO EGYPT.

3. IN MEETING WITH MUBAREK, VP STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND MADE PLEAS FOR MILITARY SALES. BUAREK EXPLAINED SOVIETS HAVE RECENTLY CUT OFF ALL BUT A VERY SMALL FLOW OF SPARE PARTS TO EGYPT. EGYPT NEEDS DEFENSIVE WEAPONS. BUAREK SAID EGYPT SOUGHT SPARE PARTS FROM INDIA, BUT SOVIETS BLOCKED THAT ROUTE TOO. CHINESE, MUBAREK SAID HAD PROVIDED ABOUT 20 TO 25 MIG 17 AIRCRAFT ENGINES AS A GIFT, REPORTEDLY AFTER URGING FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER. CODEL ASKED IF THERE IS A SHOPPING LIST, MUBAREK REPLIED EGYPT NEEDS PLANES AND OTHER DEFENSIVE WEAPONS, BUT WAS UNSPECIFIC. CODEL SAID FOREIGN ASSISTANCE BILL WOULD LIKELY PASS, PROVIDING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, FURTHER HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD NEED FOR MILITARY SALES. IN REPLY TO CODEL'S QUESTION ABOUT FUNDS FOR MILITARY SALES, MUBAREK SAID THAT EGYPT WOULD GET MONEY FROM OTHER ARAB NATIONS AND WOULD PAY CASH.

4. AT LUNCHEON WITH PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY MEMBERS AND NEWS-PAPER EDITORS, CODEL WAS TACKLED ON HIS BOYCOTT LEGISLATION. OTEIFY SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD COMPLAINTS FROM AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN THAT BILL WOULD HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON TRADE AND COMMERCE WITH THE ARAB WORLD. CODEL SPECIFICLY DENIED THAT HIS LEGISLATION HAD ANY INTENTION OF RESTRAINING AMERICAN BUSINESS ANYWHERE. ON THE CONTRARY, HE DESCRIBED HIS LEGISLATION AS MODERATE AND WARNED THAT IN AN ELECTION YEAR, IF THE ISSUE IS NOT HANLDED RESPONSIBLY, STRICTER, EVEN UNFRIENDLY, LEGISLATION MIGHT RESULT. HE SAID THAT ONLY PROHIBITION IN HIS BILL WAS AGAINST TERTIARY BOYCOTT IN WHICH AN AMERICAN COMPANY WAS TOLD IT COULD NOT DO BUSINESS WITH ANOTHER AMERICAN COMPANY IN U.S. FOR BOYCOTT

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REASONS. SENATOR SAID THAT TIS IDEA IS REPUGNANT TO AMERICAN PEOPLE AND BILL WAS DESIGNED PRIMAILY TO STOP THIS PRACTICE. WHEN PRESSED ON HOW MANY ACTIONS OF THIS TYPE HAD HAPPENED, CODEL CITED INSTANCS IN WHICH A CONSTITUENT HAD BEEN INVOLVED. HE WENT ON TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW HOW MANY TIMES THIS HAS HAPPENED BECAUSE HE FOUND THAT, WHEN HE CHECKED THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE RECORDS, THEY COULD NOT BE DISCLOSED TO HIM. HIS BILL, THEREFORE, PROVIDES FOR PUBLIC

DISCLOSURE OF ALL ACTIONS RELATED TO THE BOYCOTT. EDITORS, AS WELL AS ASSEMBLY MEMBERS TOLD CODEL THEY MIGHT NOT HAVE TROUBLE WITH LEGISLATION PER SE BUT THAT TIMING IS BAD, GIVEN NEW U.S. POLICY ROLE IN ARAB WORLD. CODEL REPEATED THAT PRESSURE IS GROWING FOR THIS LEGISLATION IN ELECTION YEAR, HENCE, IT CANNOT BE DELAYED. IN RESPONSE TO CODEL'S QUESTION RE NEXT STEPS, ALL PRESENT FELT A FURTHER DISENGAGEMENT ON GOLAN IS NECESSARY BEFORE RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, BUT EMPHASIZED THIS MUST HAPPEN SOON. EGYPTIANS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT SYRIAN EFFORTS TO OUST ARAFAT WILL BRING PLO MODERATES UNDER RADICAL AWAY AND, THEREFORE, FURTHER COMPLICATE THE PLO PROBLEM.

5. DURING MEETING WITH ASSEMBLY SPEAKER MAREI, CODEL MADE SIMILAR POINTS (PARA 6) RE HIS BOYCOTT LEGISLATION. MAREI SAID THAT SUCH LEGISLATION WOULD BE VIEWED AS UNFRIENDLY ACT, ESPECIALLY AT THIS TIME. HE URGED SENATOR DELAY BILL UNTIL AFTER PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. CODEL SAID THAT BECAUSE THIS IS AN ELECTION YEAR IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO DELAY BEYOND ELECTIONS, BUT HE DID SAY THAT IT MIGHT POSSIBLY BE POSTPONED A FEW MONTHS. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS RENEWED PRESSURE, ALL OVER AMERICA, FOR ACTION AGAINST THE BOYCOTT AND HIS LEGISLATION IS THE MOST RESPONSIBLE TREATMENT OF THE ISSUE THAT WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

6. SAYED MAREI THEN REVIEWED STEPS TAKEN SINCE 1973 IN SEARCH FOR PEACE AND DESCRIBED DELICATE SITUATION OF EGYPT NOW IN TERMS OF ECONOMIC AND INTERNAL PROBLEMS. HE SAID THAT THERE MUST BE SOME FURTHER MOVEMENT ON THE PEACE PROCESS OTHERWISE STAGNATION IN BOTH AREAS, I.E., ON BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY FRONTS, WOULD CREATE A SITUATIONWHICH WOULD THREATEN THE STABILITY OF EGYPT AND ITS SEARCH FOR PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST. PROGRESS IN ONE OF THESE AREAS WOULD HELP EASE PRESSURE ON THE OTHER IN THE SHORT TERM. MAREI CRITICIZED THE SYRIANS FOR TRYING TO GET CONTROL OF THE PLO LEADERSHIP BY UNDERMINING ARAFAT. MAREI SAID THAT ARAFAT
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IS MODERATE, BUT IF SYRIANS TRY TO TAKE OVER, THE MODERATE PALESTINIANS WILL ALLY WITH RADICALS TO SAVE ORGANIZATION FROM BEING SWALLOWED BY SYRIANS AND RADICALS WILL GAIN SUPPER HAND. CODEL ASKED WHAT IS THE NEXT STEP IN THE MIDDLE EAST, EXPLAINING THAT HE HAS DISAGREED WITH THE STEP BY STEP APPROACH AND ESPECIALLY CITING FACT THAT HE VOTED AGAINST THE SINAI SUPPORT MISSION BECAUSE HE THOUGH SINAI II WOULD ONLY CONTRIBUTE TO A FURTHER STALEMATE IN THE SITUATION. MAREI SAID THAT HE THINKS THAT ASAD WANTS ANOTHER DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, WHICH WILL THEN ENABLE HIM TO GO TO GENEVA. SENATOR REPEATED IS BELIES THAT HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE SENATE UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR ARMS SALES TO EGYPT.

7. SENATOR STEVENSON INDICATED HE FOUND HIS BRIEF VISIT TO CAIRO USEFUL IN THAT IT BOTH GAVE HIM OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR VIEWS OF LEADING EGYPTIAN PERSONALITIIES AND ALSO TO EXPLAIN AIM AND

LIMITED IMPACT OF HIS BILL ON BOYCOTT. EILTS
UNQTE. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE037585
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SSOBER:CF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760057-1089
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760246/aaaabnzzr.tel
Line Count: 171
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 76 STATE 28668
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL STEVENSON'S VISIT TO CAIRO
TAGS: OREP, EG, (STEVENSON, ADLAI E III)
To: JIDDA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006